

Greetings to all Navy Medicine personnel and the Hospital Corps!

First and foremost, congratulations and best wishes to CMDCM Mike Hinkle who was selected as the Navy Medicine East CMC!

Hope this finds everyone well and you had a safe Halloween with family and gearing up for the Thanksgiving holiday season! Keep a close watch on the Sailors in your charge during this season; this is the time of year when many of our Shipmates feel homesick and isolated.

1. I had the opportunity to attend the graduation ceremony for class #190, the first under the new curriculum at HM "A" school. All 73 of our new Hospital Corpsmen are motivated and ready to support Navy Medicine! Thank you NMETLC and NMTSC for setting the pace for the future of HM training.
2. Thirty students of class #190 are currently in Great Lakes, Illinois, participating in a follow-on training, the HM Clinical Trauma Experience Proof of Concept. We have partnered with the Department of Veteran's Affairs and a civilian medical facility to provide critical skills training in both a controlled simulation and trauma environment while still in a training status.

Students will spend 12 weeks at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) located near Naval Training Center, Great Lakes and at the James H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, a level-one trauma center in Chicago, Illinois, referred to as "Cook County". FHCC will focus on hospital in-patient/out-patient clinical skills while the experience at Cook County will emphasize the importance of teamwork in medicine and give students their first experience treating injuries similar to what they will see in combat. This is an excellent opportunity to ensure our HMs are provided with real experiences they can use to build a strong medical foundation and resilience in trauma situations. Our team is working hard to develop this experience at different locations Enterprise-wide!

3. Thank you to the leadership and staff at BHC Millington, Medical Annex MARFORRES, NBHC Belle Chasse, BHC Gulfport, and NH Pensacola! The SG and I had a great visit at your commands and look forward to hearing more of your accomplishments.
4. We are currently soliciting for ETL applications in the following NECs: 8466, 8482 and 8483. There is much going on within these communities and we need an SME to lead the way! Nominations should be sent to: [usn.ncr.bumedfchva.mbx.hm-planner@mail.mil](mailto:usn.ncr.bumedfchva.mbx.hm-planner@mail.mil).
5. A highly motivated HMCS or HMC is needed for assignment with the Office Joint Staff Surgeons (OJSS) at the Pentagon. This is an opportunity to work in a joint environment, to learn and bring expertise from the Fleet. Forward nominations no later than 15 November 17 to HMCM Walker at [david.j.walker2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:david.j.walker2.mil@mail.mil).
6. We approaching our deadline for completion of the Blended Retirement System (BRS) training. All leaders are reminded to continue to push the completion of the BRS to leadership and Sailors. Completion rate is viewed not only as a Department of Defense mandate, but also as a part of our commitment to ensure our service men and women are provided with accurate information ensuring they make the most informed career decision possible concerning retirement and investing in the Thrift Savings Plan.

Current BUMED BRS completion percentages:

BRS OPT-IN: 37.38%

BRS for Leaders: 18.30%

The completion date for BRS training is 31 December 2017. Commands are expected to ensure training is documented in FLTMPs and report compliance percentages to their respective Regional Staff Education and Training Department.

For more information, contact your Regional Command Career Counselors:

NCCS Gibbs, NME CCC, Email: [harold.f.gibbs.mil@mail.mil](mailto:harold.f.gibbs.mil@mail.mil)

NCCS Briggs, NMW CCC, Email: [david.m.briggs.mil@mail.mil](mailto:david.m.briggs.mil@mail.mil)

NCCS Sanders, BUMED Force Career Counselor, Email: [Lamondt.b.sanders.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Lamondt.b.sanders.mil@mail.mil)

7. The following “C” schools are in search of fleet returnees to fill FY18 quotas. These schools provide some advance training and offer different sea/shore rotation while promoting the Navy Medicine mission.

- 8401 - Search and Rescue
- 8402 - Submarine IDC
- 8407 - Radiation Health Tech
- 8425 - Surface IDC
- 8427 - FMF Recon
- 8463 - Optician Tech
- 8482 - Pharmacy Tech
- 8483 - Surgical Tech
- 8485 - Behavioral Health
- 8493 – Diving Medical Tech
- 8503 – Histology Tech
- 8506 - Medical Lab Tech
- 8541 - Respiratory Therapy
- 8752 - Basic Dental Lab
- 8753 - Advanced Dental Lab
- 8765 - Maxillofacial Lab

8. NMETLC is currently accepting additional applicants for the FY18 HM-Dental Hygienist (NEC 8708) Program. The dental hygiene program is a full-time two year undergraduate education program open to HMs in paygrades E3-E6 who meet the eligibility requirements specified in CANTRAC VOLUME II CIN B-330-0038. Deadline for submission of applications is 31 December 17. Application packages must be postmarked on or before the deadline date. It is recommended that applications be mailed prior to the deadline as early submission allows timely feedback to the Sailor. For questions, contact the Dental Hygienist Program Manager, at (210) 808-9669/DSN 420-9669 or via email at [renee.l.byam.mil@mail.mil](mailto:renee.l.byam.mil@mail.mil).

9. Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program (EMDP2). We have received a few packages so far and it is impressive to see such strong candidates. All applications must be postmarked no later than 1 November 2017. EMDP2 is a 24-month, full-time academic program that includes intensive coursework, preparation, and mentoring for the student's medical school application. Once students complete the program, they are eligible to compete for entrance into USUHS or any civilian medical school in the United States.

10. NAVADMIN 229/17 announced a change of responsibility for the recruitment, identification, and selection of Fleet Subject Matter Experts (FMSE) for Advancement Examination Readiness Review (AERR) panels. Accountability for AERR FSME selection has been transferred from U.S. Fleet Forces Command to Type Commands (TYCOM)/Rating Sponsors. The next HM AERR is scheduled for 8-21

July 2018; we will submit 6 primary FSMEs and 2 alternates. All nominations should be sent no later than 1 May 2018 to the following address: [usn.ncr.bumedfchva.mbx.hm-planner@mail.mil](mailto:usn.ncr.bumedfchva.mbx.hm-planner@mail.mil).

Additional details may be found at: <https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/reference/messages/Documents/NAVADMIN/NAV2017/NAV17229.txt>

11. The CNO has challenged us to "actively strengthen our Shipmates' integrity," so that the entire Character of the Navy team behaves in a way that is "consistent with the values that we profess." In support of his vision, from 9 October - 8 November, Navy Medicine is launching an Idea Crowdsourcing Challenge to engage staff in conversations around the development of Character. The Surgeon General has asked for your ideas on how to enhance our character. Please share your ideas using the information below and vote on other's ideas.

What to do:

Step 1: Go to the Navy Medicine's Crowdsourcing Challenges page found at:

<https://www.milsuite.mil/book/groups/digital-health>

Step 2: Log into milSuite with your DoD Cert and PIN

Step 3: Click "Join this group" in the upper right corner (so you can automatically receive updates on Crowdsourcing Challenges)

Step 4: Click on the rectangle labeled, "Navy Medicine Character Challenge - Share new ideas!"

Step 5: Share your ideas, comment on other's ideas and vote each idea

We look forward to hearing from you and your Sailors!

12. In remembrance:

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Allan M. Cundanga Espiritu, 28, of Oxnard, CA, died Nov. 1, 2005, from an IED while conducting combat operations in the vicinity of Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Doc Espiritu was assigned to 2nd Force Service Support Group.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Julian Woods, 22, of Jacksonville, FL, died November 10, 2004, as a result of hostile fire in Fallujah, Iraq. Doc Woods was assigned to 3rd Marine Division.

You will never be forgotten!

13. These dedicated Navy leaders will go ashore within the next month - All of us hope the next chapter of your lives is even more rewarding. Fair winds and following seas to:

HM1 Jose Torres (NH Pensacola) 1 November 17

HMCM Nathan Whiddon (NHC Cherry Point) 17 November 17

HM1 Kelvin Vasquesluna (BDC Yuma) 22 November 17

14. Lastly, congratulations to HM2 Terence Parsons for his selection as the USO Sailor of the Year for 2017! Well done Shipmate!

<https://www.uso.org/stories/2069-this-navy-corpsman-is-the-uso-s-sailor-of-the-year-for-2017>

There have been many changes in Navy Medicine and the Hospital Corps with many more to follow; let's continue to watch out for one another and keep pressing forward. Thank you for all you do every day.